

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
RUSS 101: Intermediate Russian (Third-Semester)
Bryn Mawr College
Fall 2023

“He works really hard to make sure every student understands the materials, and is very willing to offer support to students struggling in the class or mentally/medically.”

“I really enjoy the lessons where we practice listening and writing out the answers. It is helpful for me as a non-native speaker to hear the ways in which specific words or sentences are structured in conversation and learn to pick up social cues. Additionally I enjoy the lessons where we write on the blackboard and have the chance to practice our script. Writing on the board also allows me to come to an answer that I have confidence in. Honestly I have never felt that anything that we do in class is not helpful.”

“I feel that the workload has been very appropriate. Practicing every day has helped me stay engaged in the course and has also helped me better understand the work we do in class.”

“I have really enjoyed this course. So far this semester it has been my favorite one.”

“Jose is an excellent instructor and I feel much more comfortable with Russian grammar when he explains it with slideshows, exercises, etc. than just reading the textbook. I feel that each chapter is well-paced and thoroughly evaluated.”

“I have enjoyed the course instruction so far and I feel engaged and productive in class. The size of the class and professor allows me to participate and engage often with the materials and assignments. Everything is very organized as well, all of the handouts are helpful and easy to understand.”

“You’re a good teacher. You do your job well.”

“I think the schedule of instruction, grammar practice, vocab practice, and speaking practice is greatly helping my knowledge in Russian become well-rounded. We cover all bases of learning a language in class, so I am starting to feel confident in all areas, because Jose's instruction is varied from day to day.”

“I am excited for what is to come!”

“Prof. Vergara is a good and very conversational pedagogue. While I did not enjoy the videoblog assignments, I understand how all of Prof. Vergara's tasks were designed to reach the

overarching goal of language proficiency. He's a great teacher and researcher, and he deserves tenure."

"Professor Vergara is very knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and understanding. This class was challenging, but I always felt that I was supported and encouraged by Professor Vergara to grapple difficult concepts even if I felt I didn't fully understand them. Professor Vergara's teaching style makes us well-rounded language learners, since he incorporates speaking, listening, and writing activities almost every day. I also really appreciate how organized Professor Vergara's assignments are — I always know what is coming next by checking the syllabus, so I feel that I always have enough time to prepare for essays or tests in advance."

"Professor Vergara was always prepared with a structured lesson plan for each class that focused on many areas of skill in language: oral practice, reading comprehension, writing, etc. I always felt as though our class time was used effectively to help me understand the current unit."

"Many of the strengths of this course include close attention to detail. As Russian language often involves the need to pay attention to particular rules and key aspects, I feel that we do a great job reviewing and practicing the work in class."

"We are clearly advancing beyond the beginner level and learning to communicate complex topics."

"I believe that this course was the next best step towards my Russian learning and believe it to be listed perfectly appropriate for what is needed."

"Prof. Vergara was very accommodating to our various schedules and always provided treats in line with the dietary restrictions of the class."

"Professor Vergara is very inclusive and gives everyone a chance to participate. I never felt that I was overlooked in the classroom and I was always confident enough to speak out if I had a question."

"I felt comfortable speaking in class, asking and answering questions, participating in discussion. Professor Vergara made sure that everyone was engaged and participating."

"Professor Jose has been one of the most inclusive and understanding professors I have had the last two years. He is extremely welcoming and makes the classroom a space where you don't dwell on your mistakes but rather learn from them. Coming into this learning space with no previous relationship to Russian (no Russian speaking family members) he made me feel as if my effort and time was truly making a difference. I honestly think that this has been the

most accessible course I have taken thus far.”

“I would recommend that students interested in learning Russian continue with Prof. Vergara. He's a great teacher and while there is a significant amount of homework attached to the course it is an engaging and rewarding experience.”

“I would definitely recommend this course. I think Professor Vergara is an excellent instructor — I feel that my Russian has improved significantly and I enjoy coming to class to speak the language every morning. He clearly understands how language-learning is best facilitated and his assignments are reasonable but require focus and thought. I could not think of a better-structured course that I have taken.”

“I would recommend this course to other students that have an interest in the Russian language. It does help build your proficiency, and I do feel like I have made progress since the end of my elementary class last year.”

“I would definitely recommend this course as taught by Professor Jose. I believe that it is an extremely reasonable next step following first year Russian and would recommend to anyone interested in continuing with the language. I have really appreciated all of Professor Jose's feedback and comments and have come to love learning with him.”

“I loved taking this course and feel that it has taught me a lot both about the language itself but also Russian culture. While I sometimes struggled with the work we did, I never once thought that I didn't have the support needed to overcome any obstacles.”

“Please give him tenure; he makes the college an inestimably better place.

“Thank you for your support this semester! I am lookin forward to semester 2 :)”